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## POULTRY

### DRINKING WATER FOR FOWLS

Sufficient Supply, Frequently Renewed, Is as Necessary as Proper Amount of Food.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

If your flock of poultry has not been doing as well as you think it ought to, perhaps it is because you have not been providing the chickens with a supply of fresh, pure drinking water. Of course, lack of thrift and low egg yields may be due to a number of other certain causes, such as poor stock, poor feed (both quality and quantity), bad housing conditions, diseases, presence of lice and mites, and lack of care. But for some reason many poultry raisers who give attention to these items sometimes neglect the water supply. A supply of pure drinking water frequently renewed is as necessary for poultry as sufficient amounts of food.

There are two different types of drinking vessels for poultry in common use: Open vessels—pails, pans, crocks and the like; and drinking fountains so constructed that dust and dirt cannot get into the water except by way of a very small exposed surface.

These quite opposite types of drinking vessels are about equally popular with poultry keepers. Open vessels catch more dirt and dust, but are more easily cleaned. Closed fountains may be used much longer without cleaning, but if allowed to become foul are harder to clean thoroughly.

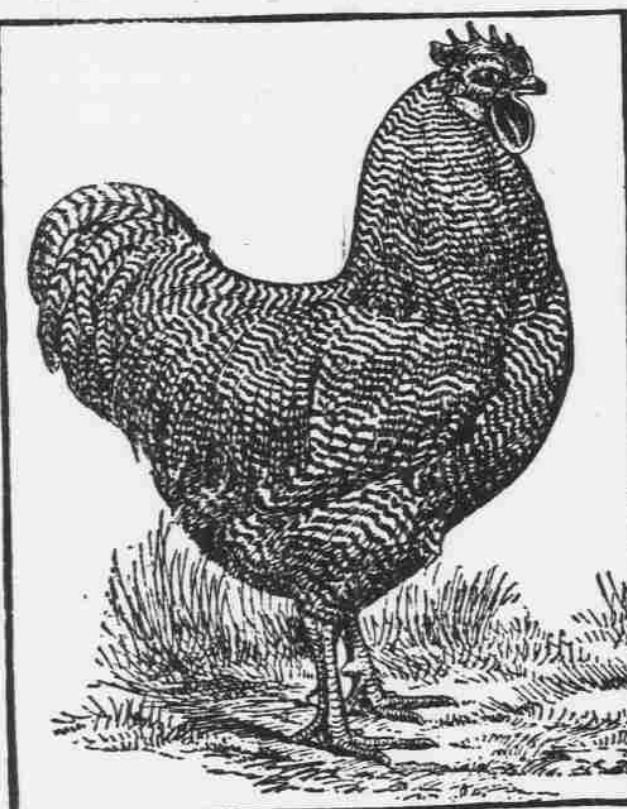
Placing open drinking vessels on a shelf a foot or more above the floor prevents the hens from scratching coarse litter into them, but does not keep out the dust which floats in the air and settles in the water.

Thoroughly rinsing open vessels once a day and scalding drinking fountains once or twice a week will usually keep them as clean as necessary.

### VARIATION IN BARRED ROCKS

Pains Must Be Taken to Keep Fowls Typical of the Variety They Represent.

To see the many flocks of chickens over the country, varying in size, shape and color, yet all dubbed purebred Plymouth Rocks, or Reds, or Wyandottes, as the case may be, leads one to wonder if breeders, aside from those who breed for the showroom, know what the type of their breed is. The variation in a Barred Rock, or



Barred Plymouth Rock Cockerel.

Red, or "Dotte," from the type of bird accepted by the standard, is great. Unless some pains are taken to keep the birds of a breed typical of the variety they represent, a comparatively short time makes all the breeds look alike.

### RIGHT QUALITIES OF MALES

They Should Be Gallant, but Not Too Generous, and Thus Deprive Himself—Study Nature of Bird.

The male should be gallant, ever ready to share his meals with the hens; but he must not be too generous and thus deprive himself, or he will be underfed, become nervous, and not prove to be a good breeder. The glutton male is equally bad. He becomes overfat while the hens do not get their share, and the consequence is poor fertility. The nature of every male bird should be studied.

### SAVE THE HENS.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Every pullet and young hen sold for food this winter means a reduction of from five to twelve dozen eggs in the potential egg supply of next spring and summer.

Hundreds of thousands of farmers who have not raised poultry will do so next spring and summer—responding to the demand for more chickens and eggs so that beef and pork will be released to help win the war. They will need young hens.

The United States department of agriculture urges the saving of fowls of producing qualities, so that they may be used for stock in the early spring.

## OUR FARM PAGE

Articles of interest for Farmers, Live Stock Men, Dairymen, Gardeners

### SMALL FLOCK OF CHICKENS SHOULD PRODUCE ENOUGH EGGS FOR FAMILY



FLOCK FOR PRODUCTION OF EGGS AND MEAT.

(From the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The keeping of a small flock of laying hens on a town or village lot or in a city back yard is an important branch of poultry keeping. Though the value of the product from each flock is small of itself the aggregate is large. The product of such a flock, both in the form of eggs and fowls for the table, may be produced at a relatively low cost, because of the possibility of utilizing table scraps and kitchen waste which would otherwise be thrown away. A small flock of hens, even as few as six or eight, should produce eggs enough, where used economically, for a family of four or five persons throughout the entire year, except during the molting period of the fall and early winter. By the preservation of surplus eggs produced during the spring and early summer this period of scarcity can be provided for. The keeping of pullets instead of hens also will insure the production of eggs at this time. Not only will the eggs from the home flock materially reduce the cost of living, but the superior freshness and quality of the eggs are in themselves well worth the effort expended. Eggs are a highly nutritious food and are so widely used as to be almost indispensable, and an occasional chicken dinner is relished by everyone.

Where conditions render it feasible and cheap small flocks of poultry should be kept to a greater extent than at present by families in villages and towns, and especially in the suburbs of large cities. The need for this extension of poultry raising is particularly great in those sections where the consumption of poultry products exceeds the production with the result that prices are high.

#### Kind of Fowls to Keep.

Householders usually desire not only fowls for the table and for cooking, but also an occasional chicken to eat. For this reason one of the general purpose breeds, such as the Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, Rhode Island Red, or Orpington, is preferable to the smaller egg breeds, such as the Leghorns. Not only do the mature fowls of these breeds, because of their larger size, make better table fowls than the Leghorns, but the young chickens for the same reason make better fliers and roasters, whereas chickens of the egg breeds are only suitable for the smaller broilers. The general-purpose breeds are also "broody" breeds, the hens making good sitters and mothers, which is a decided advantage when it is desired to hatch and raise chickens, since the hens of the egg breeds seldom go broody and are in any event rather unreliable sitters and mothers. If, however, the production of eggs outweighs the desire for an occasional table fowl, the lighter egg breeds un-

doubtedly will be found better, because they lay as many eggs and do so on less feed, with the result that they produce the eggs more cheaply. It is by all means advisable to keep some pure breed or variety. Where this is done, sales at a profitable figure can often be made of breeding stock which it is intended to market or of eggs for hatching.

#### Size of Flock.

The size of the flock which can be most efficiently kept will depend first of all upon the space available and, secondly, upon the amount of table scraps or other waste which is available for feed. It is a mistake to try to overstock the available space. Better results will be obtained from a few hens in a small yard than from a larger number. The back-yard poultry flock rarely will consist of over 20 or 25 hens and in many cases of not more than eight or ten, or occasionally of only three or four. For a flock of 20 to 25 hens a space of not less than 25 by 30 feet should be available for a yard. Where less space is available, the size of the flock should be reduced, allowing on the average 20 to 30 square feet per bird. A few hens are sometimes kept successfully with a smaller yard allowance than this, but if the space is available a yard of the size indicated should be used.

#### Procuring Stock.

The best way for the city poultry keeper to procure hens is to purchase them in the fall. An effort should be made to obtain pullets rather than older hens, and the pullets selected should be well matured, so that they will begin to lay before the cold weather sets in. Evidence of the maturity of pullets are the development and red color of the comb and a size and growth which are good for the breed or variety. Hens will lay little or no eggs during the fall and early winter, while they are molting. Well-matured pullets, however, should lay fairly well during this period, so that an immediate return is realized from the investment. The purchasing of pullets in the fall is preferable in most cases to purchasing day-old chicks or to hatching chicks in the spring. Usually there is little space available for the raising of chicks, and, moreover, many city dwellers have had no experience in raising them. Under these conditions the results are apt to be very poor. Hatching and rearing chicks also necessitates broody hens for this purpose, or else investing money in artificial apparatus such as incubators and brooders. Such an investment is often too great to prove profitable with the average small flock. If chicks are raised, they must be fed throughout the summer and no return will be obtained until the pullets begin to lay in the fall, except that the males can be eaten or sold.

### POOR COCKEREL IS HANDICAP

Not Only Should Male Bird Be Pure-bred, but He Should Be From Strain of Producers.

The poor cockerel is a great handicap to progressive poultry raising. Not all poor cockerels are mongrels; there are many poor birds among the recognized breeds. An effort should be made to get the best to head the flock. Not only should the cockerel be purebred, but he should be from a strain of producers.

### USE FOR HOME-GROWN FEEDS

Comfortable Stable, Abundance of Bedding and Little Extra Care Is Recommended.

Owing to the high price of bran and milfeed most milk producers are feeding home-grown feeds. Warm stabling, abundance of bedding and extra care will tend to reduce the cost of feed and the cows will yield more milk.

## FARM ANIMALS

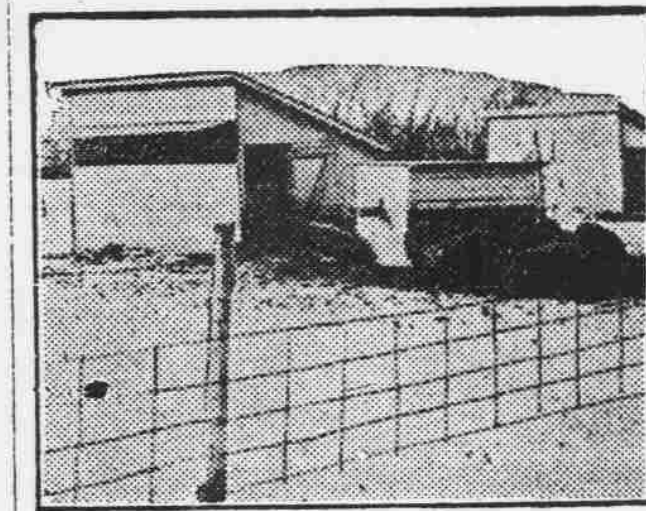
### GIVE BROOD SOWS GOOD CARE

Proper Exercise and Protein Feeds in Winter Will Aid in Production of Strong Litters.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

If the sows that are to farrow in March and April produce good strong, vigorous litters and get their pigs through successfully to weaning time they must be properly cared for from now until the day of farrowing. One of the biggest hindrances to the sows' farrowing good strong, vigorous litters is lack of exercise. During the cold and snowy weather hogs like to lie around the sleeping quarters and be comfortable. That, however, is just what they should not do all the time, advise the specialists of the United States department of agriculture.

The proper exercise for a brood sow is that which she will take voluntarily and not through force. They should get their corn ration by hustling for it in the stalk fields and not by getting it fed around the sleeping quarters on feeding floors or in troughs. Feed them ear corn during the winter months and scatter it out in the stalk fields. The manure spreader is a good implement to use in scattering this corn. Don't be afraid it will be wasted, for it won't. You can readily regulate the amount



Pigs at Self-Feeders.

fed so that it will be picked up clean, and you will find next spring that there is not a bit of the corn lying around to go to waste.

Protein feeds in the form of shorts, tankage, oilmeal or alfalfa hay should be supplied. Self-feeders can be used for these feeds, and it is quite successful to grind the alfalfa hay. Sows will eat a larger percentage of alfalfa hay fed in the ground form than when fed in racks underground. This alfalfa is generally cheaper on the corn belt farms than any of the other protein feeds and is a good balance to the corn ration.

By following a few of these simple methods the sows will be brought to farrowing time capable of producing good strong pigs. Every hog grower knows that if he is going to have pigs that do their best from the start they must necessarily be strong and vigorous at farrowing time. The proper care of the brood sow is not difficult and should be carefully looked after by every hog grower.

### SHEEP ARE MOST PROFITABLE

Produced More Economically on Farm Than Any Other Live Stock—Pick Up Much of Living.

Sheep, in proportion to the value of their products, are produced more economically on the farm than any other live stock; the feed and labor requirements are less. They fit in with general farming, get much of their subsistence from forage from grazing weeds and grass that would not support other stock. They eat little feed that has a value as human food, and need less grain than other animals. They add materially to the farm revenue but add very little, relatively, to the farm expense.

### BRAN AND CLOVER FOR SHEEP

Nothing Better for Ewes With Lambs During Winter Season—Supply Best of Hay.

Feed straw, fodder and stubble grasses during the winter, but toward spring ewes with lamb should have the best of first-crop clover hay, say, one feed per day. Nothing is better for them than bran and clover hay.

### BEST FEED FOR YOUNG PIGS

Skim Milk and Middlings Are Excellent Just After Weaning—Feed Four Times a Day.

Skim milk and middlings make about the best feed for young pigs after weaning. When first weaned they should be fed four times a day, giving only a small quantity each time. When well started, three feeds a day are enough.

### OUTDOOR EXERCISE FOR PIGS

Animals Should Be Protected From Cold Winds or Hot Sun—Limit Range for Sows.

Outdoor exercise is beneficial, but pigs should be protected from cold winds or from very hot sun. If the sow is turned out with her pigs, do not give her a very large range at first, as she is likely to travel too far and unduly tire the young.

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